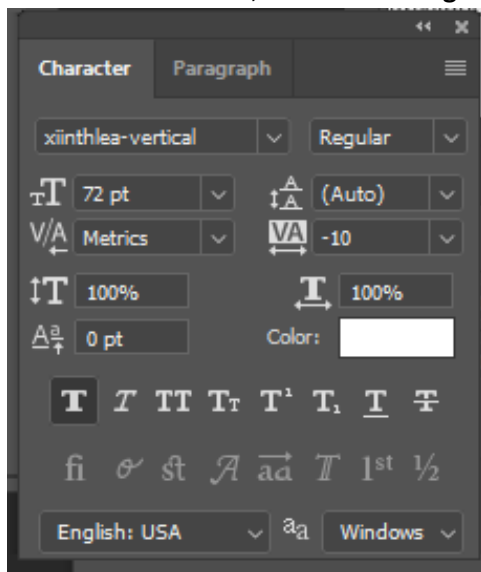# Xi'an Font Instructions

[Click here to see a comprehensive pdf on Xi'an language](#)

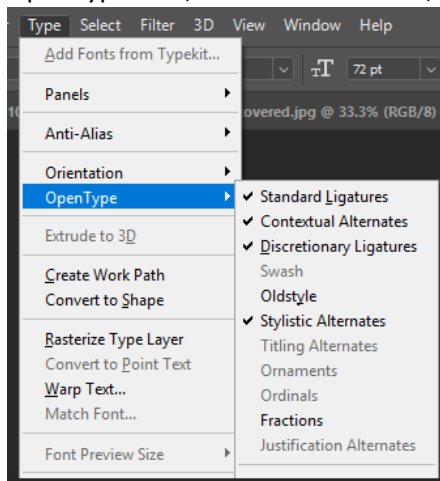## Adjust your program settings

Adobe Illustrator and **InDesign** need the Adobe word-ready composer to display the font correctly. Both programs will not likely need to be otherwise adjusted. They should render the font correctly out of the box.

Adobe Photoshop will need to be adjusted in order to render the font correctly.

1. Select the **xiinthlea** or **xiinthlea-vertical** font from the list of fonts after you create your text box.
2. In the **Character** box, set the **Tracking** to **-10**. It helps with the spacing between characters.
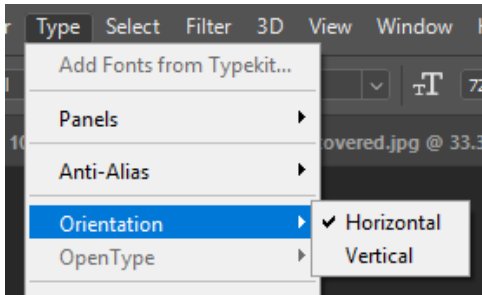

3. Click on the **Type** menu and select **OpenType**. Make sure **Standard Ligatures**, **Contextual Alternates**, **Discretionary Ligatures**, and **Stylistic Alternates** all have a checkmark by them. If any checkmarks are missing, click to add them. If you can't select them, choose another OpenType font, add the checkmark, and then re-select **xiinthlea**. Your settings will be the same.

If you are using **xiinthlea-vertical**, move on to the next step. If not, you're done! Star typing!

4. Click on the **Type** menu and click on **Orientation**. Make sure **Horizontal** has a checkmark next to it. Seems weird, but that's the right thing to do.
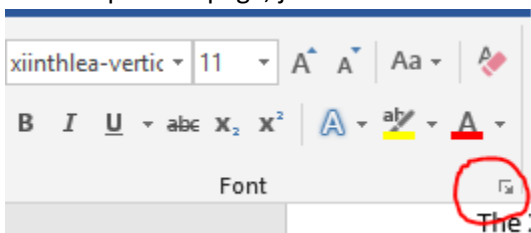

5. Hover your mouse just outside the **upper right corner** of your textbox until it becomes a curved arrow with points on both sides. Drag your box **90 degrees clockwise**. Hit **enter** to save your changes.

6. Click in the textbox and you are good to type! **Orientation of Xi'an text is top to bottom, right to left.**

MS Word will need to be adjusted in order to render the font correctly.

1. Turn off auto-capitalization.
   a. Click **File** -> **Options** -> **Proofing** -> **AutoCorrect Options**
   b. **Untick** the **Capitalize first letter of sentences** box.
   c. Click **OK**
2. Select **xiinthlea** or **xiinthlea-vertical** as your font. Click the bottom-right corner of the font menu at the top of the page, just underneath the font color button, to open the **Font** box.

3. Click the **Advanced** tab and:
   a. Tick the **Kerning for fonts** box
   b. Type **1** in the box to the left of **Points and above**
   c. Set **Ligatures** to **All**

       d.   Tick the **Use Contextual Alternates** box

       e.   **Save your settings.**

4.   **If you are using xiinthlea-vertical,** now draw a vertical rectangle to serve as a text box. You can find the "Text Box" button in the Insert tab.

5.   Set the text direction to vertical.

       a.   If you click the cursor in the text box, you can find "Text direction" in the "Format" tab under the "Text" category.

       b.   Click the text direction button and select "Rotate all text 90 degrees"

6.   Click in the textbox and you are good to type! **Orientation of Xi'an text is top to bottom, right to left.**

How to Type with the xiinthlea font

The xiinthle'a font uses default SRX characters (you can find a rundown of them in *An Overview of the Xi'an Language for Diplomats*).

Type in aa, ee, oo, uu to create ā, ē, ō, ū

For example, You can type ā directly (by selecting it from the character map or via other inputs) or type aa to get the Xi'an character for ā. Both work.

Use the numbers 1-9 to create pitch marks directly left or right of a letter (up to 3 numbers before or after a letter). In all other cases you can use them as normal numbers.

- 1 = low pitch (type after syllable)
- 2 = normal fall (type after syllable)
- 3 = high pitch (type after syllable)
- 4 = rise (type before syllable)
- 5 = normal rise (type after syllable)
- 6 = <type after a glyph to get a rare variant (if available)>
- 7 = <type 7 before a glyph for basic or 77 before a glyph for mini form> (used when you need just the letter for example to show the alphabet, not in normal writing)
- 8 = <special empty character: type after a glyph to get the version without hai>
- 9 = proper name (type before syllable)
- 0 = <special empty character: type after a glyph to prevent more characters getting inside the syllable and start a new one>

For Example: xee2sue0len gives you xē'suelen in kyexiin. 2 is for the falling pitch and the 0 is to begin a new syllable, as the font tries to fit as many characters into one syllable as the rules allow.

When you type 0 after a consonant you get the vowel muting glyph.

Uppercase characters create the mark for proper names, too.

To get just the basic form of a letter you can write a 7 before the character to get the basic form and 77 for the mini form.

You can type 8 after a vowel to have it act like a consonant. This is only needed for rare name forms.

Explanation of the Number System

- 0-9 are normal numbers and can be typed directly

- 10 <in steps count of zeroes> 1000000 = &(the number as numbers e.g. &100 for the 100 glyph, &10000 for the 10000 glyph)

- Alternative to the line above: 10 100 1000 … 1000000 = &d(the number of zeroes e.g. &d5 for one hundred thousand glyph, &d6 for one million glyph)

creates the multiplication mark above the following number

#o to type the counter glyph

$ = Xi'an currency

#kxy = also Xi'an currency

#kh = Human currency

#kp = Banu currency

There are some edge cases where pitch marks and numbers could interfere. In this case you can type an asterisk * between them as an invisible divider.